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PATENT

### REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 25, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application. Claims 3, 6, and 10-20 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 4, and 7 are currently amended. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-9 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sulcek (U.S. Patent No. 3,773,399) is respectfully traversed.

Sulcek describes a refuse compactor (10) having a drawer (11) and a front panel construction (12) that permits the use of interchangeable slip in panels (13) or a wrap around panel (113). The panel construction (12) includes a frame trim (31) having side portions (32) and (33) and a bottom portion (34). The top of the door construction (12) includes a handle (47) that may include an upper gripper portion (48), a horizontal cover portion (49), a forward depending flange (50), a middle depending flange (51), and a rear depending flange (52). The handle (47) is secured to the upper end (53) of a mounting panel mid portion (19) by means of screws (55) through holes (54) and threaded through the rear flange (52).

Claim 1 recites an escutcheon for an appliance door assembly, the escutcheon including "a front edge and a rear edge horizontally spaced from said front edge, said front and rear edges vertically depending from an escutcheon upper surface; a control panel mounting surface comprising a lower edge, said control panel mounting surface extending upwardly and inwardly from said lower edge and between said front and rear edges; and a plurality of formations depending from said lower edge and defining a retaining slot".

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Sulcek does not describe or suggest an escutcheon for an appliance door assembly, that includes a front edge and a rear edge horizontally spaced from the front edge, and wherein the front and rear edges vertically depend from an escutcheon upper surface, a control panel mounting surface including a lower edge, wherein the control panel mounting surface extends upwardly and inwardly from the lower edge and between the front and rear edges, and a plurality of formations depending from the lower edge and defining a retaining slot. Moreover, Sulcek does not describe or suggest a control panel mounting surface that extends upwardly and inwardly between a front edge and a rear edge horizontally spaced from the front edge, and wherein the front and rear edges vertically depend from an escutcheon upper surface. Rather, Sulcek describes a refuse compactor drawer having a handle that has a horizontal cover portion.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Sulcek.

Claims 2, 4, and 5 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2, 4, and 5 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2, 4, and 5 likewise are patentable over Sulcek.

Claim 7 recites an escutcheon for a dishwasher door assembly, the escutcheon including "a lower edge and a plurality of formations depending therefrom, each formation comprising a guide surface formed at an acute angle with said lower edge, said guide surface defining a retaining slot."

Sulcek does not describe or suggest an escutcheon including a lower edge and a plurality of formations depending therefrom, each formation including a guide surface formed at an acute angle with the lower edge, and wherein the guide surface defines a retaining slot. Moreover, Sulcek does not describe or suggest a guide surface formed at an acute angle with the lower edge. Rather, Sulcek describes a refuse compactor drawer having a handle that has flanges vertically depending from a horizontal cover portion.

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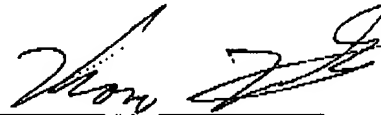
For the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Sulcek.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8 and 9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 8 and 9 likewise are patentable over Sulcek.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-9 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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